

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/964,257

Applicant(s)
Terashima et al

Examiner
Madeleine AV Nguyen

Group Art Unit
2622



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 22, 2001

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 7-10, 19-25, and 34-69 is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) 62-69 is/are withdrawn from consideration

☒ Claim(s) 7-10, 19-25, and 34-61 is/are allowed.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 23

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

Art Unit: 2622

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to amendment filed on January 16, 2001.

Applicant amends claims 23, 38-47, 52, 55, 59, adds new claims 62-69.

Election/Restriction

1. Newly submitted claims 62-69 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: claims 62-69 claims a first transporting guide to transport a first sheet, a second transporting guide to transport a second sheet, a first apparatus for performing processing of the first sheet, and a second apparatus for performing processing of the second sheet which are distinct from the method and apparatus claimed in claims 7-10, 19-25, 34-61.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 62-69 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 7-10, 19-25, 34-61 are allowed.

Art Unit: 2622

Conclusion

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 62-69 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Madeleine Anh-Vinh Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-4860.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Art Unit: 2622

Box AF
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

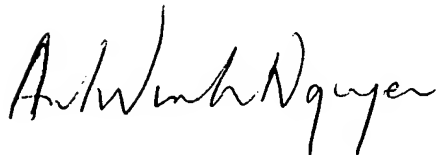
or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051 (for formal communications intended for entry; please mark "EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE")

(703) 308-9051 (for informal or draft communications, such as proposed amendments to be
discussed at an interview; please label such communications "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

or hand-carried to:

Crystal Park Two
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA.
Sixth Floor (Receptionist)



Madeleine Anh-Vinh Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2722
March 13, 2001